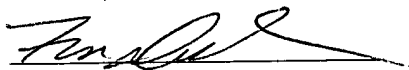


REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Applicant gratefully acknowledges Examiner's indication that claims 2-4, 10-12, 14 and 18-20 comprise allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten as suggested in the Office Action.

Although Applicant disagrees with the claim rejections, the claims have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance. For instance, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 2, claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 10, claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 14, and claim 16 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 18. Accordingly, claims 1, 9, 13 and 16 are essentially claims 2, 10, 14 and 18, respectively, rewritten in independent form and, thus, in condition for allowance. All pending dependent claims are in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependence from respective base claims 1, 9, 13 and 16. Therefore, withdrawal of the claim rejections is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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